

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features formerly recited in claim 3, which has been canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are presented for further examination.

The rejection of claims 1-3 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Gauld et al., US 5,323,807 and the rejection of claims 4-6, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gauld et al. in view of Reiter, US 6,019,218 are respectfully traversed.

Gauld et al. discloses a valve with an intake screen 46 for filtering out contaminating particles (see, US 5,323,807, column 3, lines 13-16). However, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, the screen of Gauld et al. is **not** positioned inside a hood as in the claimed invention. Instead, the screen 46 of Gauld et al. is positioned exteriorly of valve body 12 (see, US 5,323,807, Figs. 1 and 2). Thus, Gauld et al. does not anticipate applicant's claimed invention, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Reiter is merely cited to show the use of polyamide synthetic resin material and does not in any way compensate for the failure of Gauld et al. to disclose or suggest a screen positioned within a hood as claimed. Thus, the combination of Gauld et al. and Reiter fails to make out a proper, *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to applicant's claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.


If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/663,996
Reply to Office Action
March 11, 2005

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.52730US).

Respectfully submitted,

March 11, 2005



J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844